

4 an optical network node for converting the communication data from a  
5 digital optical state to a digital electrical state;  
6 a fiber optic communication medium configured to transfer the  
7 communication data between the telecommunications service provider and the optical  
8 network node; and  
9 a power source configured to supply an electrical supply voltage to power  
10 the optical network node, the power source comprising an alarm system configured to  
11 monitor the operation of the power source and transmit power source operation  
12 information to the telecommunications service provider.

1 2. Please delete without prejudice.

1 3. Please delete without prejudice.

1 4. (Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the power source is  
2 located proximate to the optical network node.

1 5. (Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the power source is  
2 remote from the optical network node and supplies power to a plurality of optical  
3 network nodes.

1 6. (Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the power source is  
2 located proximate to the telecommunications service provider.

1 7. The system of claim 1, wherein the power source is located  
2 proximate to a digital loop carrier.

1 8. The system of claim 1, wherein the remote user device is a  
2 telephone.

1 9. The system of claim 1, wherein the remote user device is a  
2 computer.

543  
E1  
10. The system of claim 1, wherein the remote user device is a television.

B3 Sub D4  
11. (Amended) The system of claim 17, wherein the power source comprises a plurality of rectifiers, a plurality of converters, a plurality of current limiters, and a plurality of batteries configured to supply the DC voltage to the power source.

1 12. Please cancel without prejudice.

B4 Sub D5  
13. (Amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising one or more conducting mediums configured to connect the alarm system in the power source to the optical network node for relaying power source operation information to the telecommunications service provider over the fiber optic communication medium.

B5 Sub C1  
14. (Twice Amended) A method for powering one or more devices in a fiber optic communication network, which transmits communication data between a telecommunications service provider and a user device, the method comprising:  
transferring digital communication data between the telecommunications service provider and a optical network node;  
converting the digital communication data from an optical state to an electrical state using the optical network node;  
transmitting an electrical supply voltage from a power source to the optical network node;  
an alarm system in the power source monitoring the operation of the power source; and  
transmitting power source operation information from the alarm system to the telecommunications service provider.

B6 Sub E1  
15. (New) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the optical network node comprises an optical network unit (ONU).

Sub E1  
1 16. (New) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the optical  
2 network node comprises a digital subscriber line access multiplexer (DSLAM).

Sub D7  
1 17. (New) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the power source  
2 comprises an AC power feed for providing power to the power source during normal  
3 operation and a DC power feed for providing power the power source when the AC  
4 power feed is inoperable.

Cont.  
Sub E1  
1 18. (New) The system as recited in claim 1, further comprising an  
2 electrical conducting medium configured to conduct the electrical supply voltage and the  
3 communication data from the optical network node to a the remote user device.

1 19. (New) The system as recited in claim 18, further comprising a  
2 network interface device connected between the optical network node and the remote  
3 user device.

Sub C3  
1 20. (New) The method as recited in claim 14, wherein the step of  
2 transferring digital communication data between the telecommunications service provider  
3 and a optical network node comprises transferring digital communication data between  
4 the telecommunications service provider and an optical network unit (ONU).

1 21. (New) The method as recited in claim 14, wherein the step of  
2 transferring digital communication data between the telecommunications service provider  
3 and a optical network node comprises transferring digital communication data between  
4 the telecommunications service provider and a digital subscriber line access multiplexer  
5 (DSLAM).

Sub D8  
1 22. (New) The method as recited in claim 14, wherein the step of  
2 transmitting power source operation information from the alarm system to the  
3 telecommunications service provider comprises transmitting alarm signals to the  
4 telecommunications service provider.

1                   23.     (New) The method as recited in claim 14, wherein the step of  
2 transmitting power source operation information from the alarm system to the  
3 telecommunications service provider comprises transmitting power level and operational  
4 data to the telecommunications service provider.

1                   24.     (New) The method as recited in claim 14, wherein the step of  
2 transmitting an electrical supply voltage from a power source to the optical network node  
3 comprises an AC power feed supplying power to the power source during normal  
4 operation and a DC power feed supplying power to the power source when the AC power  
5 feed is inoperable.

1                   25.     (New) The method as recited in claim 14, further comprising  
2 conducting both the electrical supply voltage and the digital communication data along a  
3 single electrical conducting medium from the optical network node to the remote user  
4 device.

1                   26.     (New) The method as recited in claim 25, further comprising  
2 network interface device interfacing between the optical network node and the remote  
3 user device.

REMARKS

STATUS OF THE APPLICATION

Prior to this amendment, claims 1-14 were pending in this application. Claims 1-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatenable over Bigham et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,740,075) in view of Skinner, Sr. (U.S. Patent No. 5,355,4014).

Applicant has amended claims 1, 4-6, 11 and 13-14, canceled claims 2, 3, and 12 without prejudice, and added new claims 15-26. Applicant submits that no new subject matter has been introduced by the amendments. Claims 1, 4-11, and 13-26 remain pending in this application after filing of this amendment.